Title: BUNDABERG SFC MONITORING PLAN

Q1: What do you intend to monitor?

Species Common Name:- Mangrove jack, Barramundi, King Threadfin Salmon, Blue Salmon, Red Emperor, Cobia (Black King), Saratoga.

Competition tagging:-

There are two competitions held in Bundaberg every year for the general public to participate in. During such time a large amount of live tagged fish will be released in one spot following weigh-in with the competition officials.

Across The Waves Family Fishing Classic:-

Fish tagging is done by a Bundaberg Sportfishing Club members who have a great deal of experience in tagging. Fish are tagged in the town reach area and are released in one location over the weekend. In previous years the number of fish tagged is between 20 and 50 fish recorded. The main reason for monitoring this group release are that the fish have been caught mostly in locations surrounding the Burnett River but some of the fish have been caught in neighbouring creeks and there is an interest in whether they will return to their original locations or travel elsewhere

VMR Competition:-

Much the same as the ATW competition, a mass data collection will happen over one weekend in July every year. Fish are weighed in from various rivers & creeks surrounding Bundaberg and taken to the weigh-in with live tanks and then loaded into a large live tank where there could be over 100 fish. At the end of the day all fish are tagged over 1 hour and released into one location. Numbers of fish can vary every year but it is common to see between 250- 350 fish tagged for the weekend which has huge potential to provide fantastic data collection when recaptures occur.

Q2: Where will you monitor?

Primarily in Burnett River, Kolan River, Burrum River, Elliott River, Baffle Creek, and off-shore Bundaberg & 1770. The fresh waters will include Lake Gregory, Cania Dam & lake Monduran.

Q3: Why is this species and area a priority for monitoring?

The Bundaberg Sportfishing Club has chosen to tag the following species due to lack of knowledge of their travels around our creeks and off shore areas. Species like Barramundi in particular have only been available to capture post recent major flood events and there is no local data that indicates what these local stocks will do and what distances and growth rates they will have now introduced into the saltwater reaches. Saratoga will also be monitored in Lake Gregory & Cania Dam under our plan & the study of growth rates for fresh water Barramundi in Lake Monduran.

Q4: Who will use your data?

1. The Bundaberg Sportfishing Club
2. ANSA QLD
3. Wider community

Q5: How will the data be used?

Data will be quality checked, collated and archived to be available for ANSA members and third parties upon request.

On a regular basis Bundaberg Sportfishing Club will use the activity and data to promote sustainable fishing and best practice fishing methods for focus species.

Q6: What data quality do you require?

The primary objective of this project is to allow anglers opportunity to collect fishery data as a means of citizen science participation. The idea is to value add to the fishing experience and in doing so, create greater awareness of the study species (population, growth & movement patterns)

Although the primary focus of the program is citizen science based, data collection methods will be as robust as possible to ensure data quality is as high as possible to allow for as many potential end uses as possible. Data Quality will be set at a level where the complexity of collection and data entry methods does not greatly inhibit participation.

The quality of data is likely to be of indicative quality (better than demonstrative but not analytical)

Q7: What is the proposed period of monitoring? When and how often will you monitor?

The intent is to commence monitoring in the Bundaberg region immediately focusing on growth and movements of our local fish populations from season to season. Monitoring from then will be ongoing with periodic review and refinement of the plan.

Bundaberg Sportfishing Club will review the effort and results of the monitoring program on an annual basis with a view to learning and improvement, and assessment of whether resources could be better allocated to another priority.

Monitoring will primarily be opportunistic in nature (when members are fishing) noting that the club fishes at least once a month as part of routine club activities. Club activities usually occur on the weekend.

Members will be encouraged to participate in monitoring outside of scheduled club activities. Members fish a great deal more often than the average recreational angler, and usually with greater effectiveness. One could anticipate monitoring to occur fortnightly or even more frequently in the study area.

Q8: What methods will you use?

It is envisaged that the majority of fish will be captured with as little stress as possible, before careful measurement, tagging, and quick release.

- As part of normal recreational fishing activities, fish capture information as outlined in field of form: http://www.ansaqld.com.au/awards/entry-form/ will be collected for captured King and Blue Threadfin and other species identified by Fisheries Queensland or third party researchers.

- Members will fish according to the ANSA QLD code of Ethics (http://www.ansaqld.com.au/code-of-ethics/) and the National Code of Practice (http://www.ansaqld.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/recfish_australia_ncop_brochure.pdf) adopted by ANSA QLD.
- Fish destined for release will be released according to the ANSA Code of Practice for Releasing Fish (http://www.ansaqld.com.au/code-of-practice-for-releasing-fish/)
- Tagging will be conducted according to the AUSTAG Manual (http://www.ansaqld.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Austag-Manual-Complete-with-Work-Instructions.pdf) noting that the manual will be updated during 2016-17. Tagging data is added directly by members who tag a part of the fish capture form. Any field sheets used reflect fields in this web-form.
- Location of fish will be recorded using Queensland Government Logbook Maps (https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/fisheries/commercial-fishing/monitoring-and-reporting/reporting-commercial-fishers/queensland-logbook-maps)
- Fishes of Australia (http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/) is used to identify fish species

Q9: Who will be involved and how?

Monitoring will be conducted by Bundaberg Sportfishing Club members and other ANSA QLD members who visit the area of interest. Reporting of recaptures will be open to the general public. Some local competitions may also benefit from the ANSAQ tagging programme mostly due to a mass tagging of fish in one area at one time.

ANSA QLD will provide fish capture database facility, tags and support to Bundaberg Sportfishing club members

Fisheries Queensland or third party researchers will be involved as interested or required to achieve the other objectives of the monitoring program.

Q10: How will the data be managed and reported?

- Data is added directly by members into the fish capture form.
- When submitted this is logged in the ANSA QLD MySQL database.
- Results will be reported online using a series of codes that query the database and then visualise this data. Data will also be provided to Fisheries Queensland and third party researchers to report
- Records are maintained on ANSA QLD server using MySQL database. Database is regularly backed up.

Version

Version 1

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Background

Why do we need a plan like this?

ANSA Qld and our members have limited resources (money and time) to contribute to monitoring, so we need to make sure we are doing it for good reasons.

The plan is simply to help you think about why and where you want to direct your efforts. We should make sure that we are contributing to highest priority issues, not just tagging as many fish as we can. For this reason the ANSA Qld executive committee will seek input from Fisheries Queensland and other research institutions into highest priority species and locations to help refine monitoring effort.

It also demonstrates to others that we are professional in our approach to monitoring.

How is the revised ANSA Qld tagging program different to what we have previously done under Suntag?

Tagging will be conducted according to the AUSTAG Manual (http://www.ansaqld.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Austag-Manual-Complete-with-Work-Instructions.pdf) noting that the manual will be updated during 2016-17. Specific revisions include:

- ANSA QLD Tagging is now the name of our state program for Queensland
- Tagging data is added directly by members who tag as part of the fish capture form. Any field sheets used reflect fields in this web-form.
- Tags use the web address www.ansaqld.org.au instead of a phone number for submission of recaptured fish information.
- Tag and recapture information is generated online at www.ansaqld.org.au and replaces letters and certificates. Recapture certificates will be emailed to anglers in the future when an automated facility for this function is developed
- Records are maintained on ANSA QLD server using MySQL database. Database is regularly backed up.
- Recreational Fishery Monitoring Plans are required for all ANSA QLD Research and Tagging projects. These documents provide detail on target species and other project related matters
- Tag purchase is currently through Floytag. ANSA QLD reserves the right to select any supplier based on access, price and customer service.
- Tag Register and Audit will be maintained on ANSA QLD server using MySQL database. Database is regularly backed up.
- Location of fish will be recorded using Queensland Government Logbook Maps (https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/fisheries/commercial-fishing/monitoring-and-reporting/reporting-commercial-fishers/queensland-logbook-maps)
- Fishes of Australia (http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/) is used to identify fish species